

!!!! NOTICE !!!!

Requests for CDL specification must go to:

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Some Folks have been sending them to Karl Heinz and they will be sitting there for over a week during his vacation.

MLAS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. You indicate that you want “to exploit existing antenna technology for integration into TCS systems” but then state that “Proposals for concepts that have already been developed or proven are inappropriate for this BAA.” Can you resolve this apparent inconsistency?

While this may cause some confusion, the intent was to indicate that, if the technology has been developed, we don’t want to pay again for the development effort. If the technology already exists to accomplish our objectives, we will not fund another development effort, but bypass this BAA and move to the next stage of implementation.

2. Will you define “cost effective?”

This program, as other programs in DOD, has certain cost constraints. We are seeking to obtain the best performance we can within those constraints. The contractor’s ability to achieve complete, or near complete, automated production will certainly provide a more “cost effective” solution to our needs. We need industry to tell us what can be done and what the costs are; we then must make the trade-off decision of performance versus affordability.

3. Please explain what you mean by “All documentation (algorithms, software, etc.) Developed with Government funds, to design and create the array antenna system, shall be deliverable and Government rights to distribute and use such data within and for DOD shall be unlimited.”

The Government expects to obtain unlimited data rights to the development effort funded by the Government. The offeror should identify any work that was privately funded which will be incorporated into the proposed solution to which the Government will receive less than unlimited data rights.

4. What are the proposed terms and conditions of contracts?

The Government anticipates that, if “standard” contracts are awarded, they will be of the cost plus fixed fee research and development (CPFF R&D) type. If an agreement (e.g., “other transaction”) is more appropriate, terms and conditions are subject to negotiation. If an offeror proposes an agreement other than a “standard” contract, he should indicate why that particular arrangement is considered more appropriate as well as the proposed terms and conditions.

5. The BAA and the Industry Brief mentioned “other transactions.” What are “other transactions?”

An “Other Transaction” (OT) is any transaction which is not a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement. Section 845 of FY94 Defense Authorization Act provided OT authority to procure prototypes relevant to weapons or weapons systems. This authority provides DOD the freedom to use agreements that are more commercial-like and to move toward industry business practices. Use of this authority may attract firms that have otherwise been reluctant to contract with DOD, but it should be used only when it makes sense to, and will meet the needs of, both the Government and the prospective contractor.

6. To what extent would “shipboard system” be integrated into what ship system? Are there any assumptions we should make about who (government or contractor) will bear integration costs? Will the Government develop the shipboard integration package?

The answer to this three-part question is that all three areas concerning integration will be determined during the proposal phase.

7. The BAA announcement talked about development of interface module as well as antenna, can you elaborate?

In the following sentence delete “with-prototype-interface-system”: “Paper should identify antenna-with-prototype-interface-system module which can be designed, fabricated, and successfully demonstrated in a laboratory by 30 August 1999”

8. How are the AAA antennas configured on ships, aircraft, and HMMWV?

Specific platforms have not been selected at this time. After an award selections will be made and the Government and contractor(s) will determine the best suitable configuration.

9. What is the beam pointing accuracy?

The beam pointing accuracy can be located in the CDL and INTELSAT specifications. Instructions were provided during the brief for obtaining the CDL specification and a URL was provided for the INTELSAT specification.

10. What is the track space for multiple apertures, multiple beams?

This information can be located in the CDL specification.

11. Does the 45-degree scan volume requirement include all platform dynamics?

Yes.

12. What is the AAA operating frequency range?

This information can be located in both the technical brief and CDL specification.

13. What is the antenna RCS requirement?

The RCS requirement for each platform is classified and will be addressed during the proposal phase. The goal is for a minimal change to the RCS.

14. What is the BAA planned budget?

The BAA solicits a price for the solutions your firm proposes to meet the Government's need. Based upon the value of the solutions (as perceived by the Government) a budget for one or more awards may surface.

15. What is the polarization pointing requirement?

This information can be located in both the technical brief and CDL specification.

16. What is the production cost levels (per active element)?

The Government's independent cost estimate for an element is \$200.00.

17. What aperture size is needed for the demo antenna?

The aperture sizes are determined by the requirements as defined during the technical brief and as stated in the CDL specification.

18. Due to a six-month time limit for module development, can the BLOS link be simulated for the demonstration? This could be needed to meet time constraints.

Six months is a goal but some latitude may be available.

19. Estimate the size of the antenna market.

The best estimate available at this time is that there will be 206 TCS systems produced. If the technology were demonstrated successfully for TCS then other applications would expand the market.